

EXPOSED

g + photography journal



2012 V1

EXPOSED

g + p h o t o g r a p h y j o u r n a l

Editors Article

Hello there and welcome to the very first issue of Exposed: G+ Photography Journal, we're very happy to see your interest in our magazine. Geoff, Nick and I are really excited about being able to bring the Google+ community what we hope to be an informative and enjoyable resource. We're also really excited that this magazine is by G+ and for G+. What that means is that 100% of the content in this electronic magazine(eZine) is by G+ users and is put out for and distributed to G+ users. Because of this we hope it better engages the community and represents the uniqueness of the photography scene here on G+.

When we first started this project we knew we wanted it to be different from any of the other eZines out there. We wanted it first-and-foremost to be very photo-centric, meaning we wanted a lot of photos in it. But at the same time we wanted it to be educational, we wanted people to possibly take something away from one of our eZines that they'd not known before. That's what we hope to do with every issue, entertain and educate. But we also want to take our readers on a journey across the planet to far away, exotic and distant lands with it's photos and words. We can't wait to get started, are you ready to begin?

Do you have questions or comments about the magazine? Drop us a note at: **exposedcomments@gmail.com**

Front cover photo by: +Don Komarechka

Editors

+Nick Gatens
+Levi Moore
+Geoff Yale

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Photographer Portfolio +Neil Howard

Neil is a keen, and entirely self taught, amateur photographer. He is an Australian, now based on the tiny island of Alderney in the English Channel Islands. His interest in photography started when he took a job in Singapore, and moved, with his family, there in 2005. Currently his “day job” takes him to many, varied places on the Globe, and he always has his trusty camera with him.

Neil mainly photographs landscapes, cityscapes and architecture, but has tried his hand at lots of different forms. Many of his images are Tonemapped HDR's, digitally blended, or some combination, but he says that he tries to avoid the “comic book” look many associate with processed HDR's.

Neil travels light with his small Olympus E-620, two lenses, filters, and sometimes even a gorillapod stuffed in his computer bag with his work laptop when he travels for work.











Blackwater Falls State Park - A Waterfall Haven by +Randall Sanger

Growing up and living in the beautiful state of West Virginia has afforded me many opportunities to witness nature's splendor at its best. To this day I make use of every available opportunity to wonder the mountains and valleys of West Virginia in search of the next awe-inspiring scene. For over twenty years I have been photographing the natural wonders of West Virginia and always find myself drawn back to the Potomac Highlands Region in general and to Blackwater Falls State Park in particular.

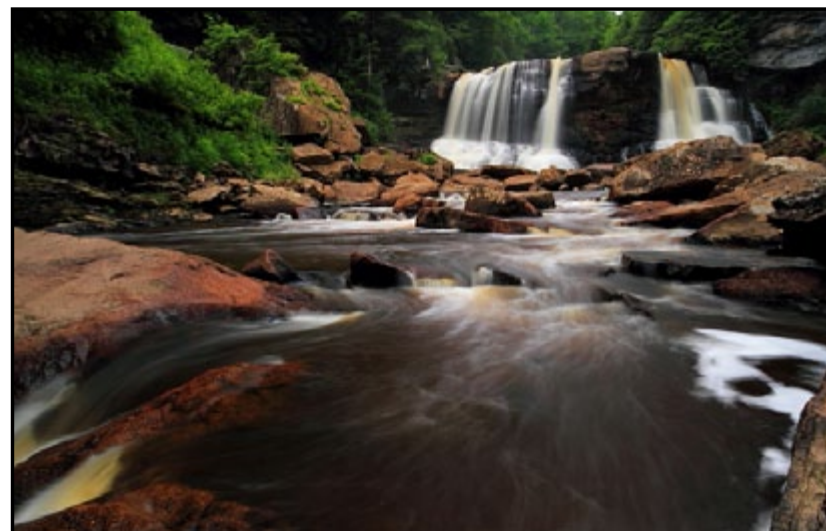
Waterfalls are plentiful in the Highlands and for those that like a bit of adventure, Blackwater Falls State Park offers over a dozen falls to photograph. I'll begin w/ the centerpiece and namesake waterfall of the park. Blackwater Falls is on the Blackwater River and before plunging into the Blackwater Canyon, it enjoys a leisurely course through the Canaan Valley. The river is named such due to the tannins from the red spruce and eastern hemlock forest leaching into the soil and eventually finding their way to the river, making for some beautiful colorations in the water.

One of the most popular viewing points of Blackwater Falls is from a trail and boardwalk system that descends over 300 feet from the Trading Post parking lot. As you make your way down a series of steps several platforms offer spectacular views of this 62 ft beauty. Blackwater Falls is easily one of the most photographed scenes in the state with many of those photographs snapped from this boardwalk. Another overlook is on the opposite side of the canyon and offers a view from above. Follow the handicap-accessible Gentle Trail from the parking area to the viewing platform.

From this point on, your adventurous spirit needs to kick in as these waterfalls will require serious scrambling down steep canyons and don't forget, after you are done, you have to climb



back up! There are no official trails to these falls and I strongly urge you not to go alone, but if you must, at least let someone know where you will be. Again, these unofficial paths are not the easily followed and maintained versions you may be used to in a typical state park setting; they are very strenuous in nature and are not for the faint of heart.



The Gentle Trail parking area is our staging point for the next few waterfalls. To gain access to river level vantage points of Blackwater Falls, look just below the parking area for a sign warning of the dangers of entering Blackwater Canyon. From here, kayakers have blazed a path that leads to the river and gains them access. Us waterfall chasers can

also use this path as it is easy to follow and after just a little section of boulder hopping, you will see Blackwater Falls. I will mention that if

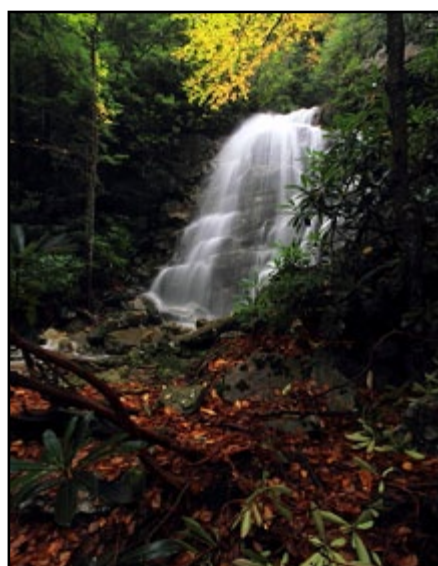


the water levels are up, this might not be a good idea to do as massive amounts of spray from the waterfall will not allow you to get close enough for decent images.

The next two waterfalls are on Falls Run. From the Gentle Trail parking area walk down the road towards the lodge and away from the Gentle Trail. You will cross Falls Run after a few hundred feet. Enter the woods here and work your way downstream following the creek. The

path is somewhat easy to follow and after about 200 feet you'll see the first waterfall. It's around 15 feet high and is somewhat difficult to photograph. An extreme wide angle lens or pano skills will be best here. Just downstream from this waterfall is the second and in my opinion the prettiest of the two. Again, the path is relatively easy to follow, but you'll have to navigate through some rhododendron thickets. This waterfall is in the 30 feet range and it's also kind of tight so again, a wide angle lens will be your best option. I should point out that this creek needs consistent rains to keep a steady flow, so in drier periods it is not much more than a trickle.

The next stream on our journey is Shays Run - a portion of which can be viewed from across the canyon at the Pendleton Point overlook -



and it is accessed via the Elakala Trail which begins near the Lodge parking area. After a tenth of a mile or so you will reach a footbridge over Shays Run; cross the bridge and continue for 20 yards or so and you will see an obvious unofficial path down to creek level. There are four waterfalls on Shays Run and the first two are absolutely beautiful. Elakala Falls #1 is easily the second most photographed waterfall in the park. It has a drop of around 20 feet and is rather unique. Thick carpets of moss blanket the surface around the falls and rhododendron and

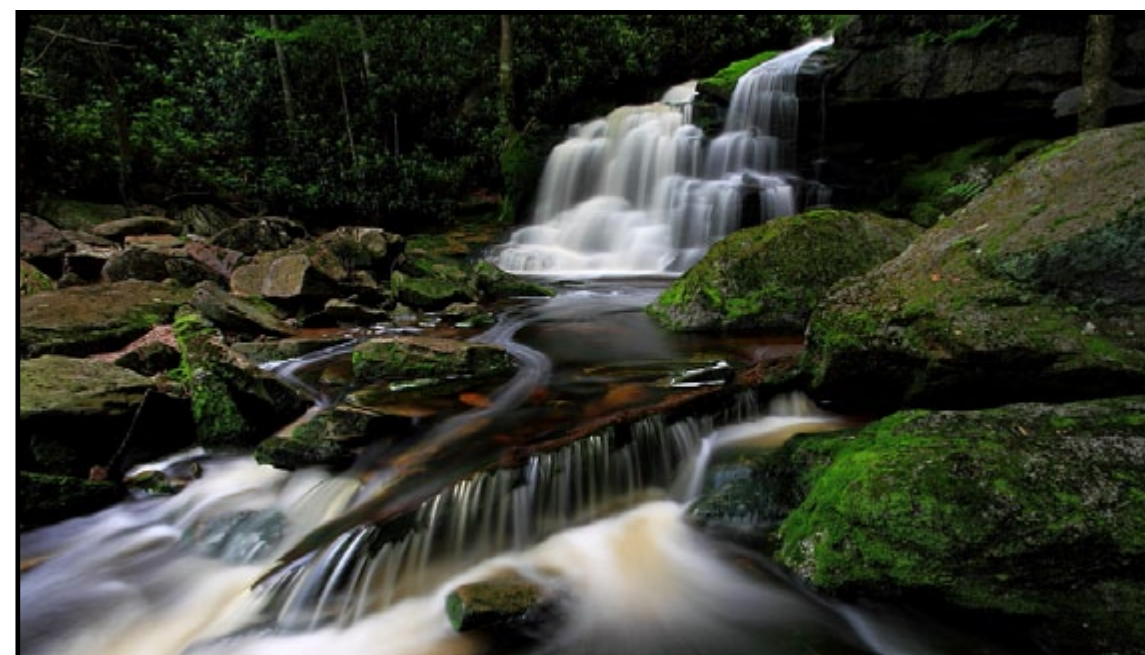
hemlock trees line the bank providing great interest and a splash of color anytime of the year.

From here, follow the unofficial path down to Elakala Falls #2, which is my favorite of the falls on Shays



Run and in my top five in the state. The drop for this falls is multi-ledged and is around 18 feet. Elakala #2 is also one of my favorite falls to compose isolation images.

If you had any trouble getting to Elakala #2, I'd suggest skipping the next two waterfalls as the going gets a lot tougher and much could go wrong



accessing the other two falls. If you feel up to it, continue working your way down the canyon and you will first come upon a side view of Elakala #3. For a better view of this drop of around 35 feet, keep working your way down the steep canyon. You'll need to navigate on and around some very slippery-when-wet boulders for a good composition.

If you've made it this far, you might as well continue on down for a shot of Elakala #4; a 40 feet cascading drop. As you venture down from Elakala #3, you will eventually find yourself on top of Elakala #4; cross the creek here and work your way down via the creek and bank to reach the base of the falls. Several compositions are available here and watch for some cool swirl action with the suds that seem to congregate in the pool.

The final creek that begs for exploration is Pendleton Run, which can be seen from the other side of the canyon at the Pendleton Falls overlook, which is around a half mile from the Lodge. Pendleton Run is held back by Pendleton Lake, so the only worthwhile time to photograph the falls are after a heavy rain. Additionally, Pendleton Run has an open canopy, so you should only make the effort to photograph this creek on a very overcast day.

There are five waterfalls on this creek and access is gained from two areas, and after numerous trips down Pendleton Run, I suggest beginning your trek from the opposite side of the lake. Park at the Nature Center, cross the road and follow a path to the lake and then continue across the dam on an access road that ends at a bridge that crosses the spillway on the other side. Scramble down the spillway and stay on the right side (looking downstream) of Pendleton Run and you will soon see an obvious, but unofficial path. Follow this trail to the first waterfall, which has a 10 ft drop.

Continue on the trail and a few hundred feet downstream you will encounter Pendleton Falls #2, which is more of a cascade and then a

small slide. From here on out, it gets hairy! Follow the trail from #2 downstream and before you know it you'll be faced with a choice, either continue down a very steep slope with very little to hold onto, or call it a day. If you move on, just be careful!

Once you reach the base of Pendleton Falls #3, which is around 30 feet high, you'll need to compose carefully, as you won't have much space to maneuver. My favorite images of #3 were taken in the middle of the stream. (Image 09)



It's best to cross Pendleton Run here and bushwhack a little until you pick up another unofficial trail on the left bank. Follow this trail downstream to Pendleton Falls #4, a beautiful freefall of 25 feet and my favorite of the five falls. Several boulders make perfect foreground elements. (Image 10)

Continue following the path downstream to Pendleton Falls #5 which has a drop of around 20 feet with small cascades above and below.

The best vantage point for this waterfall is from the other side, so be careful, one wrong move and you'll tumble into the Blackwater River which is raging just below.

As you can see, Blackwater Falls State Park is most assuredly a waterfall haven, perfect for the adventure seeking waterfall chaser and with a couple vantage points for the not so adventurous. Maybe I'll see you out there one day . . . enjoy the chase!

Randall Sanger is the coauthor of the award winning book West Virginia



Waterfalls: The New River Gorge and is currently working on the second book in this series which will feature over 100 waterfalls of the Potomac Highlands Region. He is also working on several other book titles, both in traditional print and electronic varieties. Randall leads photo tours, workshops and holds private instruction sessions throughout West Virginia and is a juried Fine Arts Photographer for Tamarack: The Best of West Virginia, located in Beckley and at The MountainMade Gallery, located in Thomas. He resides in Williamson, WV with his wife Melissa and his faithful hiking companion Rocky, their mixed breed dog.



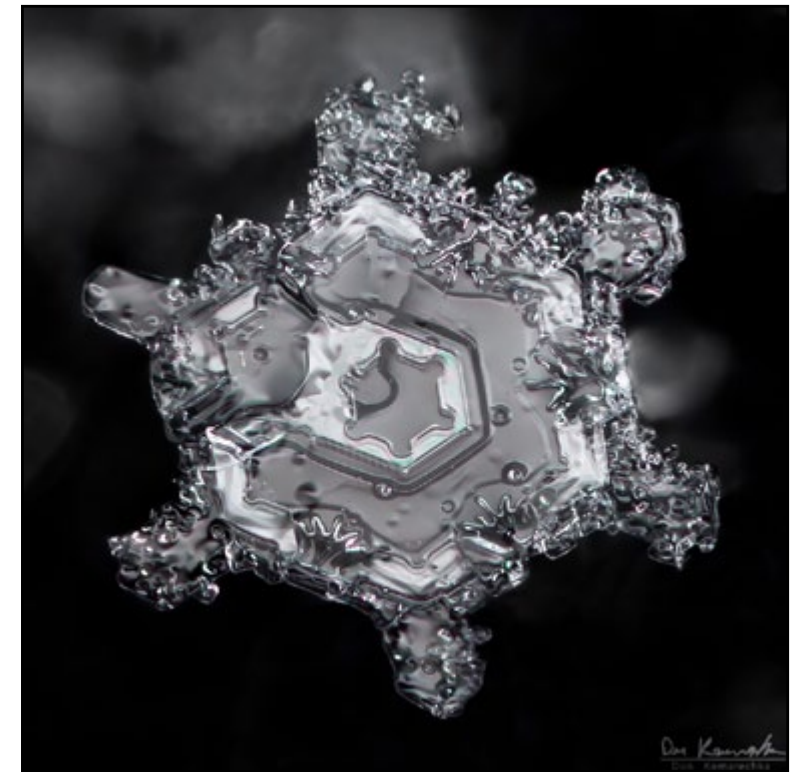
Photographer's Spotlight: +Don Komarechka

"My father was always passionate about photography in his youth, spending hours taking pictures and even more time in the dark room," says Don Komarechka. "My dad has since passed away from liver disease, but in his final year, he gave me some money to buy whatever I'd like."

Having never owned a camera before, Don took this money and purchased a brand new digital SLR. Don and his father then had many discussions - both technical and creative - about the art and science of photography. This inspired Don to invest more money and time into his hobby, which has quickly become his career.

"I've been a professional photographer full-time for a little over a year now," says Don. "If I went back in time and told myself where I'd be in a few years, there is no way I could possibly believe it."

As a photographer, Don hopes to be able to show people a world they do not see. He would like people to come to a conclusion: that we do not see the world in the way it is, but that we simply see the world the way it is useful for us to see. He believes a camera gives us a different view, and has set out to explore entirely new worlds, whether it's modifying a Canon 5D Mark II for infrared photography (a project he will embark upon later this year), or a thorough study of something as small and delicate as a snowflake as in his Snowflake-A-Day project.



"I've always been science-minded and enjoy asking 'why,' but as I grew up I paid so little attention to this childhood curiosity," says Don about his snowflake photographs. "Now I can share the beauty, wonder, and science with others on a daily basis. I couldn't be happier."

Don Komarechka resides in Barrie, Ontario, Canada. He is currently in the home stretch of his Snowflake-A-Day project, which will conclude with a local gallery display in March, and an in-depth book covering the science, philosophy, and photographic techniques involved. You can find Don on G+ at: <http://goo.gl/EEDxD> and dig deeper into his beautiful snowflake photography at his project website <http://skycrystals.ca/>

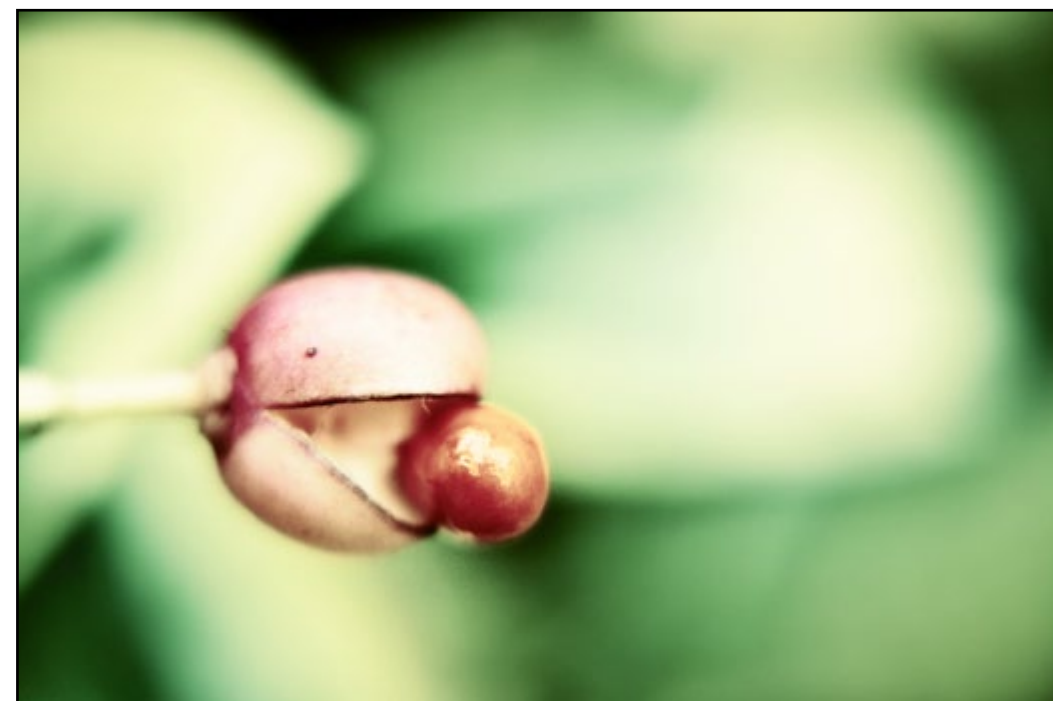


Photographer's Spotlight: +Jennifer Eden

"Photography is definitely one of the top three most important things in my life," says Jennifer Eden. "It is my passion, my therapy, my meditation."

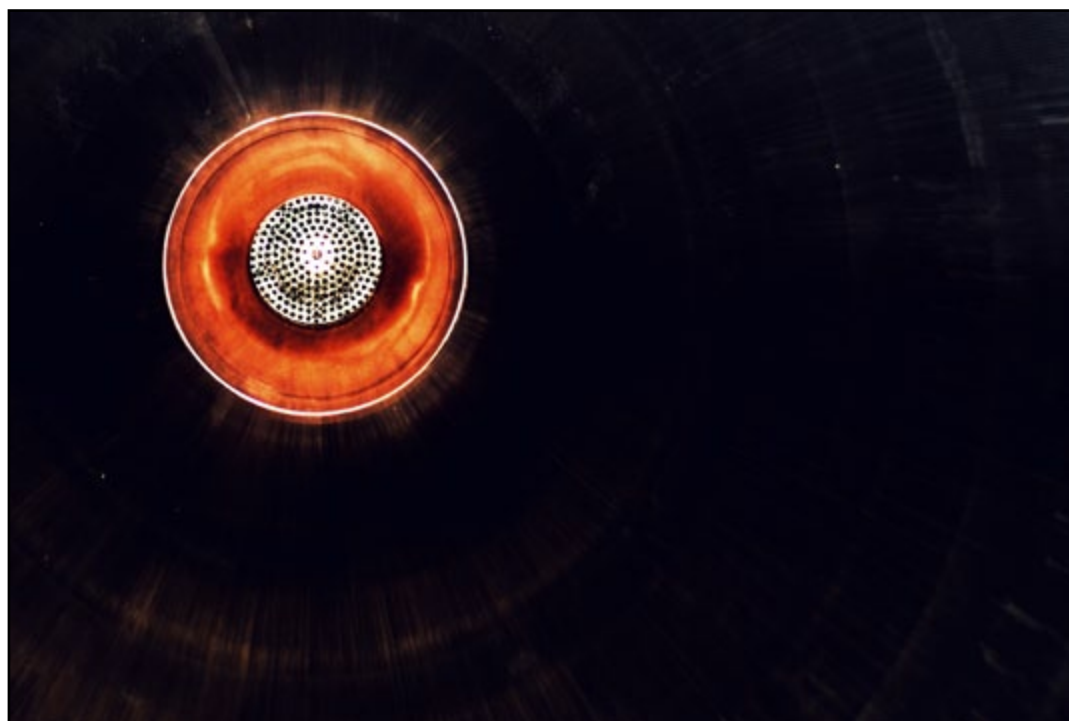
Having only moved beyond dabbling in photography in the past year or so, Jennifer was inspired to pick up a camera when she moved away from Florida in April 2011. She started out documenting things she saw - flowers, events, day trips - but photography quickly became her obsession. "I was thrust into a completely different life," she says. "I really needed an outlet, and luckily, I had received a hand-me-down Nikon D60 the previous Christmas."

As an early adopter of the Google+ platform (she joined in July 2011,) Jennifer says she can attribute much of her experimentation, focus and drive directly to the G+ community. "Google+ is probably the single most powerful force of forward progression in my photography." She continues, "I have gained so much inspiration and encouragement from the Google+ community. Since joining, I think my photo skills have grown by leaps and bounds."

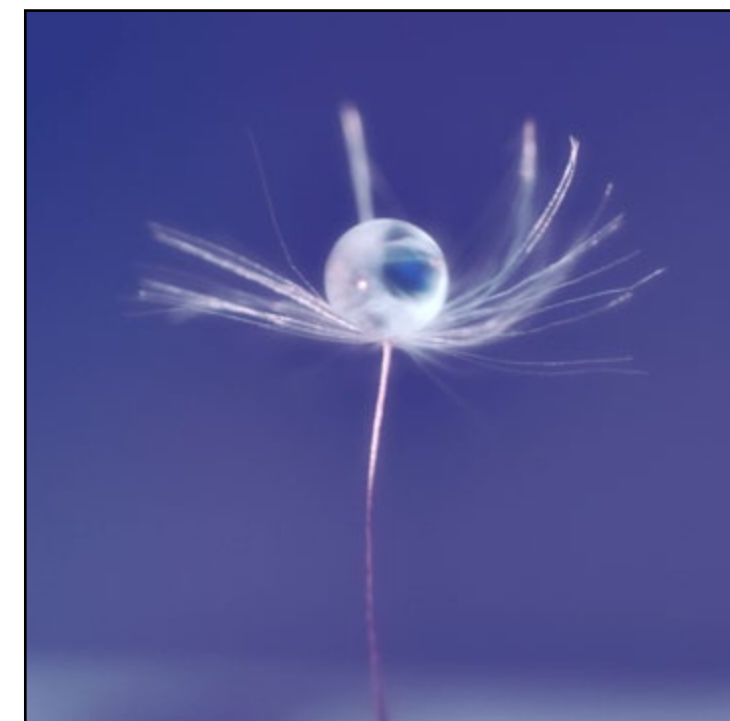


"nom!"

Jennifer Eden currently lives in Winchester, VA. She hopes to be able to continue to find a sense of peace and joy in capturing the way she sees the world around her. Jennifer co-curates several photography themes, including #MacroMonday (alongside +Kelli Seeger-Kim and +Kerry Murphy) and +The Good Stuff Project (alongside +Anna Lowry, +Lynne Goodwin, +Jake Easley, +Robin Griggs Wood and +Ricardo Williams). Get to know her on G+ at: <http://google.com/hkpft>



"Mind Control Speaker"



"The Wish"

Photographer's Spotlight: +Kelly-Shane Fuller

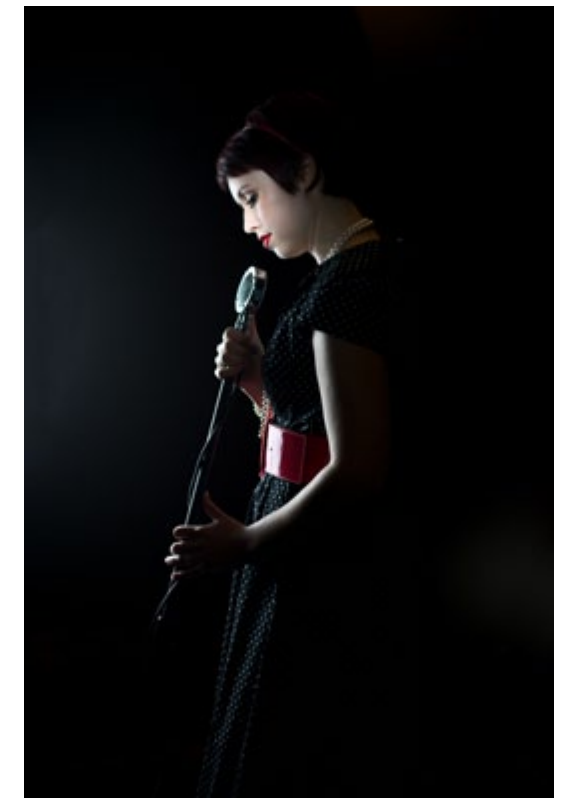
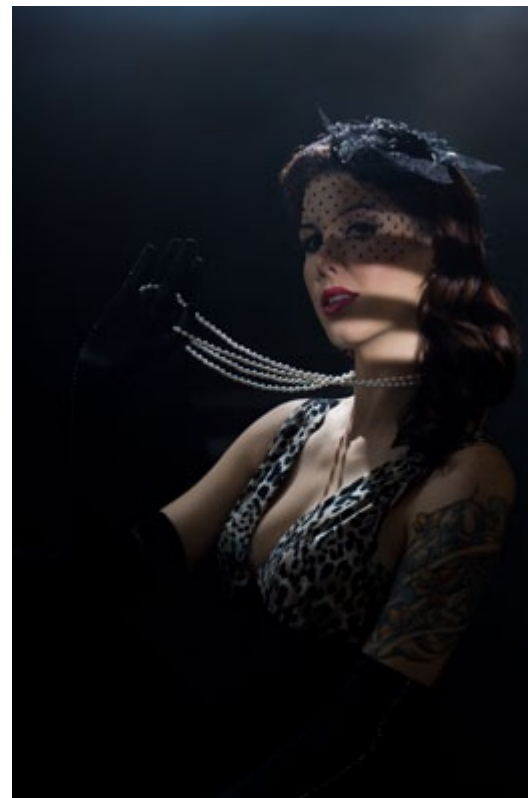
Regularly taking up his Grandmother on her offer to develop anything he shot, Kelly-Shane Fuller grew up with a camera in his hand. Having just re-discovered photography around three years ago, thanks in part to his desire to better document his son's life, Kelly-Shane considers photography an absolutely integral part of his being today.

"It's both part of my income and one of my main obsessions," says Kelly-Shane. "It's how I express myself, how I deal with stress, how I share what I'm doing, how I remember my past and how I explore my future."

To this end, Kelly-Shane finds the Google+ community greatly inspiring as a photographer. "The openness of the other photogs I talk to daily on G+ still astounds me every time I get online!" Since joining Google+, he has become close friends with many people in the community, and regularly finds himself interacting with everyone from photography masters to undiscovered talent. "They've all pushed me and my photography to better heights, cheered me on as I accomplished new things, and given me feedback to push myself in ways I never thought possible."

Though he does not limit himself to any one style or subject matter, Kelly-Shane is best known on G+ for the distinct lighting style and vintage film influences found in his beautiful concept portrait photography. "I have always been a fan of the Film Noir style, and old Hollywood. It comes out strongly in the way I light and compose my work."

Kelly-Shane Fuller is currently located in Portland, OR. He loves to share his experiences with other photographers, and is always happy to carry on a conversation about photography with anyone. He is also a regular contributor to many of the daily photo themes in addition to the Selfy Sunday project. Interact with Kelly-Shane on G+ at: <http://goo.gl/fVRHI>



Nature Photography by +Helen Bascom

When it comes to nature photography preparation will save the day and help you get the best shots you can. There is more to showing up on location with your camera and pointing it at the waterfall or hoping a bird lands on a particularly interesting tree branch. Being prepared to shoot in a natural setting requires complete familiarity with your camera and equipment, scouting the location for the best position to frame your shot and understanding the direction of light and how it will affect your shot.

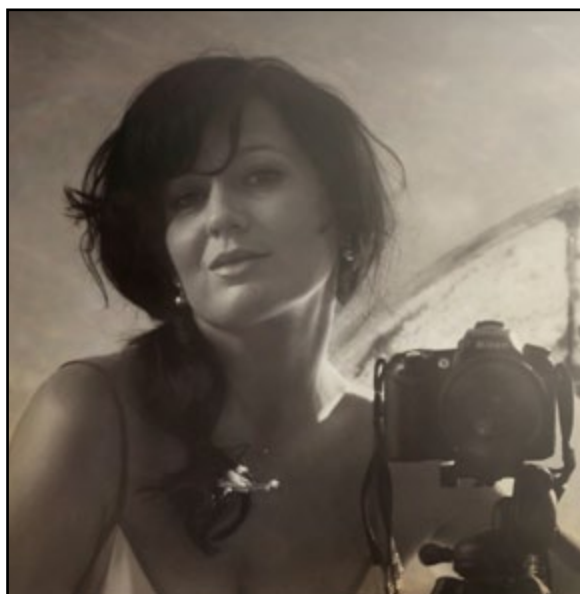
Before you head out to the wild you will need a few things in addition to your camera. If you will be shooting with a digital camera, make sure your batteries are fully charged and your memory card is properly formatted and clean. Take some extra charged batteries and an extra memory card if you have one. Keep a battery charger that adapts to an automobile in the glove compartment or console of your car. An AC/DC charger may save the day if you forget to fully charge your batteries before you left home. Bring a micro fiber lens cleaning cloth and several clear plastic bags. When shooting water scenes or if it starts to rain, you will need the bags to protect your equipment. A water spot on your lens will ruin your shot, so protect and clean your lens before you take your shots. Finally, always carry a tripod and use a remote shutter release if you have one. You will need a tripod for long exposure shots of water falls and to stabilize your camera when zooming in on wildlife. Use a neutral density filter to help reduce the effect of sunlight reflecting off water. A neutral density filter is especially good for longer exposures because it reduces the amount of light entering the lens. Remember to wear comfortable clothing suitable to the environment. Wear boots and thick jeans if you will be shooting in the woods where snakes, spiders and other creepy crawlies live. Wear long sleeves to avoid brushing against thorns, poison oak or poison ivy.

Set your camera for the type of photo you want to achieve. For sharp images always use a tripod and a delayed shutter release. Take a few test shots and adjust the settings on your camera until you are satisfied with the result. When setting up your shot be aware of the location of the sun. Avoid shooting toward the sun if possible and watch the clouds! Moving clouds can cause dark shadows in sections of your landscape. The best light for a forest scene and close-ups of animals and flowers is the diffuse light from an overcast sky. Bright sunlight creates harsh shadows and

can mask the details of white or pale flowers. Bright sunlight can be a disaster when shooting waterfalls and lakes which is why you need a neutral density filter to cut down on the glare and reflections.

Before setting up your tripod and camera check the direction of the sunlight and arrange your shot according to the type of image you want to capture. When shooting a colorful landscape or making a wide angle landscape shot the sun should be behind you. This position is also called “front light.” Shooting a mountainous landscape with rocky features light from the side may be a better choice. Side light can accentuate the various textures of rocky outcrops and create interesting shadows. Back light achieved by shooting in the direction of the sun should be used when you want to shoot a silhouette. Beginners with digital cameras and those who are not completely familiar with white balance should set their cameras to auto for white balance or select the “daylight” setting and allow the camera to self-correct the white balance. The first few minutes of the sunrise and the last few minutes before sunset produce a warm light. The sunlight will become harder toward midday and gradually soften toward evening. Plan your shots according to the tone you want to capture. On sunny days or days with a soft diffuse light, set the ISO on your camera under 100 so that your digital shots will be less noisy. A low ISO requires that your camera be stable because the shutter will be open longer than shots taken at a high ISO. Lower ISO settings can help you achieve crisp, detailed photographs. Change the aperture settings for dark days or if you are having trouble getting a good, clean shot even with the use of a filter. Try switching your camera to aperture priority mode and adjust the aperture to the lowest setting. Lowering the aperture will also increase the depth of field which is especially important when focusing on a particular object in the landscape.

The most important advice for any photographer is this: have fun! Take photographs of scenes, animals and landscapes that you love and want to share with others. Landscape photography can present you with an opportunity to see the world as only the photographer can see it and to embark on adventures you never thought you would experience. Now, get your camera and gear and head out!



Photographer Portfolio +Teresa Stover

Photography, for me, is all about the light. I am driven by its eternal beauty and the way it paints the earth and surrounding heavens with color. There is a narrow window of opportunity within each day that lends its self to this illustrious bath. That time when day and night intermingle. During this juncture is when the magic happens. I strive to capture images that evoke atmosphere and mood. Not just the landscape, but the very ‘soul’ of the land.

I love the natural world and spend much of my spare time camping and hiking, especially back-country hiking. I’ve witnessed beauty that few will ever see. From deep within the wilderness of Dolly Sods, along the ridge line of the North Fork Mountain, to the cliffs of the New River Gorge, and the waterfalls and trails of the southern coalfields.

Within my state, West Virginia, there is inconceivable beauty and diversity. I attempt to see and chronicle photographically as much of it as I possibly can. Generally, I am a quiet person. I truly believe that photography allows me to express that which I cannot express verbally. When taking a photograph my desire is for the viewer to not just see the image with their eyes but to feel the image with their heart. The quest to capture and interpret the wonders of nature is rewarding to me beyond measure.











#exposedphoto

Want to be seen in the exposedphoto gallery? Just tag your post with the hashtag #exposedphoto. We will include our favourite submissions in each issue! And don't forget, though we can't include everyone in the magazine itself, you can always type "#exposedphoto" into the G+ search bar (with quotes) to view all of the outstanding submissions from your fellow photographers!



Photographer +Stefan Bäurle



Photographer +Gerard Charnley

#exposedphoto



Photographer +Alan Shapiro



Photographer +Laura Balc

#exposedphoto



Photographer +Jason Mahaffey

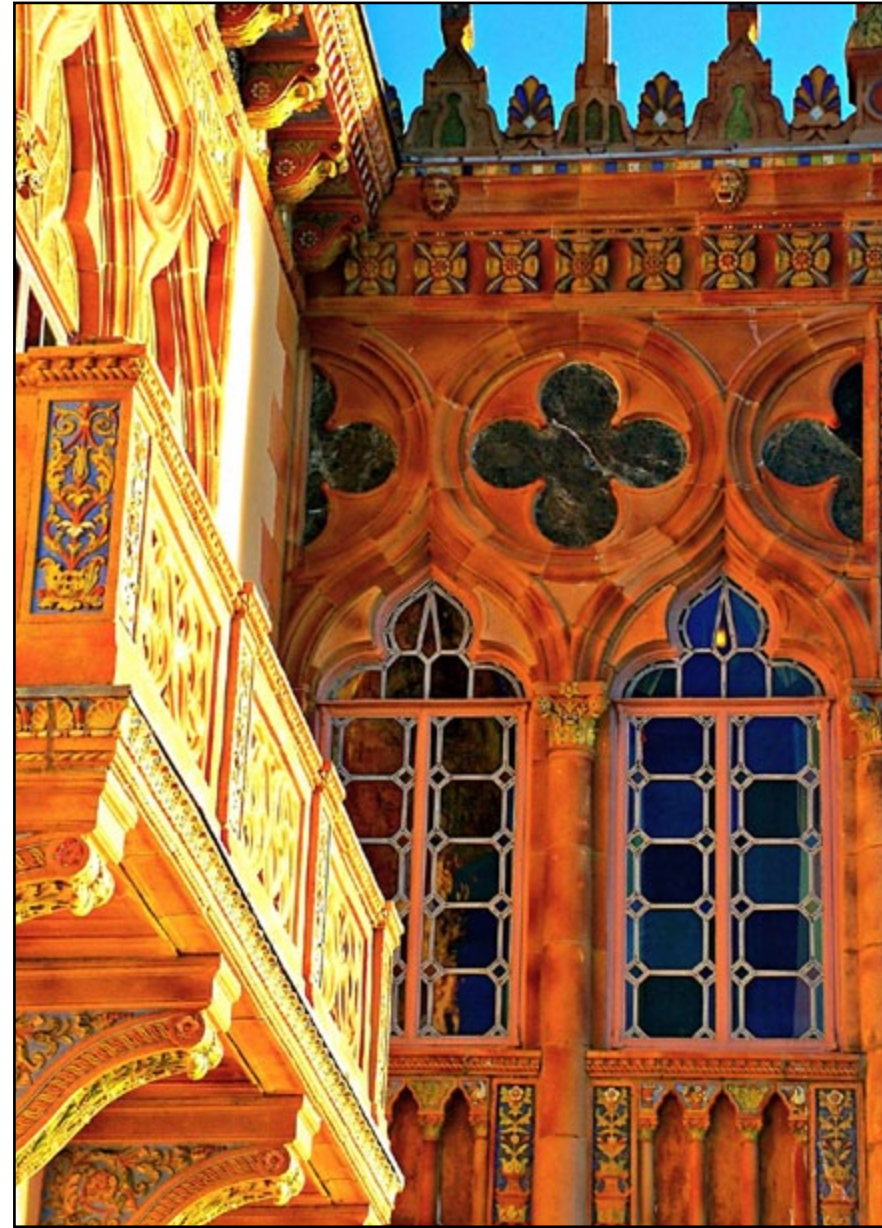


Photographer +Glen Dudley

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Photographer +Susana Segat



Photographer +Tom Dye

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Photographer +Paulissa Kipp

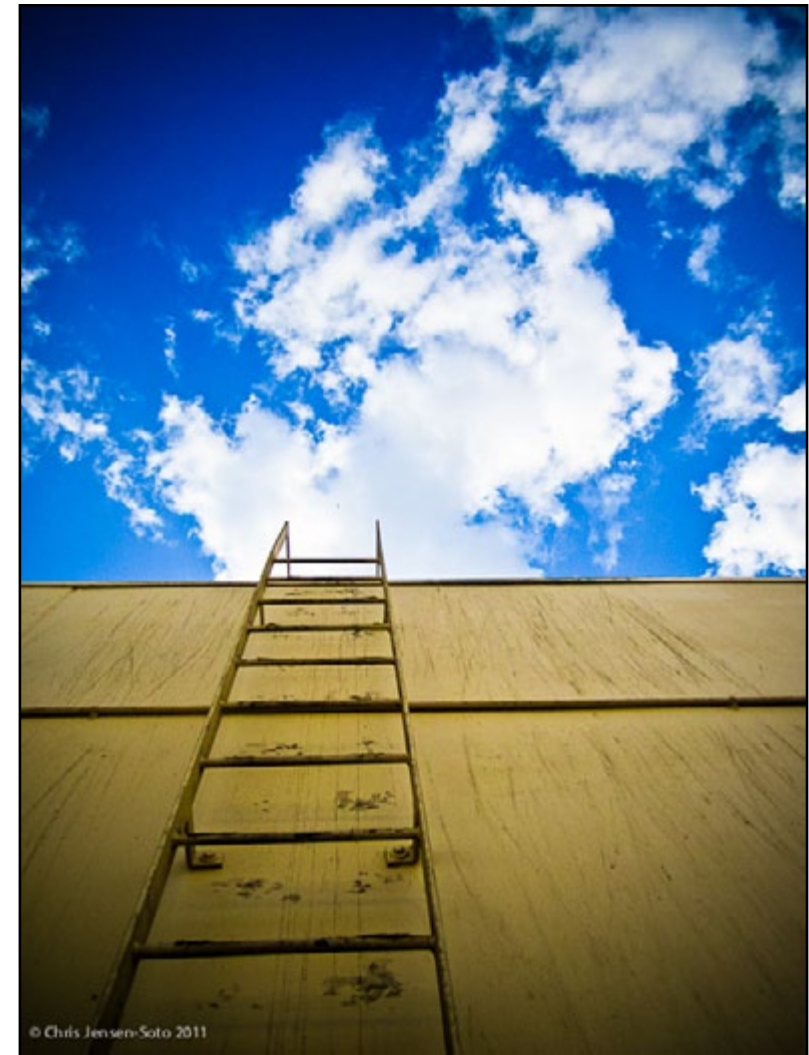


Photographer +Joe Debban

#exposedphoto



Photographer +Edward Moore Jr



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Photographer +Chris Soto



Photographer Portfolio +Shane Srogi

I've been a Professional Landscape Photographer since the mid 90's. Growing up in a Log Cabin in the Coastal Mountains of Oregon, I forged a deep appreciation for Nature. As a Photographer I'm constantly looking for dramatic light, and that often means being at the edge of a storm. Go where the good light is. Through my work I seek to encourage people to go out and experience our Parks and Wilderness for themselves. People will protect what they love.

2011 has been a great year and 2012 holds a lot of promise. I'm helping found a Co Op Photo Agency and offshoot Gallery this year with Jackie Moffett and John Patzer. One of our charters is to seek out and promote emerging Photographers. Google Plus has introduced countless Photographers to each other, there is power in that. The plan is to draw directly from the amazing talent within, our way of helping build the community.











Quick Tip +Jason Kowing

A couple of people have approached me and asked me how the heck I get macro shots with an Android camera. Well, I have a little technique to share with my fellow Android or iPhone photographers that helps me focus on close up shots, and adds a little spice to my photography portfolio. It's about as close to "macro" as I can get anyway. I've done some playing around with angles and lines for weeks now, but I've discovered that the only way to really get a good macro-ish focus and keep the bokeh in the shot is to manually focus the camera first, then take the shot. Try this, and see if it works for you:

- [1] put your hand (open palm) in front of the lens. Make sure you have good light, by the way. This really won't work with flash too well.
- [2] look at it through the camera and adjust its position closer-to or further-away as you would like, but make sure your hand fills up as much of the screen as possible
- [3] manually focus according to however your camera allows you to do that so that your hand comes into focus on the screen. For Androids you tap the screen once.
- [4] keeping the manual focus (don't tap the screen again, Android users) take away your hand and move your camera lens as close to the object you desire to shoot, as your hand was earlier. The focus should now bring the object into clear view.

That's how I do it and it seems to work quite well! I hope this helps

bring a little more fun to shooting with your phone's camera!



#exposedevent

Upcoming Photowalks

#PhotoWalkAK

+David Taylor, +Scott Slone
Anchorage, AK
Saturday, February 25th

SXSW Photowalk

+Trey Ratcliff
Austin, TX
Saturday, March 10th

Festival of Colors Utah Photowalk

+Scott Jarvie
Salt Lake City, UT
Friday-Sunday, March 23-25

Euro Photowalk

+Athena Carey, +Joel Tjintjelaar,
+Julia Anna Gospodarou, +Joerg Jung
Berlin, Germany
Saturday-Sunday, May 12-13th

Yosemite Valley Photowalk

+Samir Osman, +Eric James Leffler
El Portal, CA
Tuesday-Thursday, March 6-8

West Virginia Photowalk

+Levi Moore
Charleston, WV
Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29th

Featured Events

+Chrysta Rae's Photography Scavenger Hunt

Signups for the next round of +Chrysta Rae's Photography Scavenger Hunt will begin on Feb. 20th! Space fills up FAST, so circle the page and +Chrysta Rae herself for all the details. You don't want to miss it!

+G+ LeapYear 2012 - Day in the life of G+

2012 is Leap Year! Have some fun on Feb. 29th, by checking out +G+ LeapYear 2012 to learn how to participate in this fun and unique photographic event. Also, if you join in, you'll be helping charity through photography; the generous +Ronald Boadi is donating \$100 per 1,000 participants up to a maximum of \$500 to a selection of charities! Circle the page, have some fun, and help people in need!

Photography Hangouts

Life Through The Lens

+Karen Hutton, +Tamara Pruessner,
+Tana Teel, +Anna Nguyen, +Kerry Murphy,
+Kelli Seeger Kim, +Ron Clifford

Photo Editing Showdown

+Scott Jarvie

PhotoKarma

+Alan Shaprio

Photo Talk Plus

+Thomas Hawk, +Lotus Carroll

Plus Photo Show

+Ali Elhajj, +Shane Srogi

Trey's Variety Hour

+Trey Ratcliff

Additional Resources

+Daily Photography Themes

+G+ Photo Pages Directory

+#photography

+Vidcast Network

Submit an Event

Have an event for us to include? Tag your post with the hashtag #exposedevent and we'll do our best to fit it in. We can't include everyone in the magazine itself, so don't forget to type "#exposedevent" into the G+ search bar (with quotes) to browse every event that has been tagged!

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Do you have questions or comments
about the magazine? Please visit us at:

EXPOSED on G+